Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 19 and ending on page 5, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

> According to a further developed embodiment of the device according to the invention for continuous delivery of bags, secure transfer and secure conveying of the bags in the bag receivers [[ca]] can be ensured in that the receiving elements are provided with at least one opening in the cross-sectional surface perpendicular to the conveying direction and in that at least one opening is adapted on a lateral guide rail. Receiving elements of this kind make it possible for the lateral guide rail to extend within the opening of the receiving elements without the occurrence of a vertically extending gap between lateral guide rail and receiving elements. This effectively prevents jamming of the bags in the area of the lateral guide rail.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 1 and ending on line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

> The second embodiment of the device according to the invention for continuous delivery of bags shown in Figs. 2 and 3 has a second continuously operating linear conveyor 7 in addition to a first linear conveyor 1 which is installed across from and parallel to the first linear conveyor 1. For the linear conveyors 1, 7 belt conveyors are preferably used as these are inexpensive in manufacture and ensure sufficient precision. Adjoining receiving elements 4 formed on the linear conveyor 1, 7 constitute the bag receivers 2 to which the bags 3 are transferred for conveying. For the sake of simplification the optional guide rail 5 between the linear conveyors 1 and 7 is not shown.

Please amended the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 9 and ending on line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

> Fig. 2 shows the second embodiment of the device according to the invention at the start of transfer of the bag 3 by a not shown bag transfer device to the linear conveyor 1. The lowering of the bag 3 into the bag receiver 2 takes place during continuous operation of the linear conveyors 1 and 7 as soon as an empty bag receiver 2 is underneath the bag 3. The continuous operation of the linear conveyors 1 and 7 is made possible by the greater width of the bag receivers 2 in a conveying direction as compared to the width of the bag 3 to be received. Following the transfer of the bag 3 to the linear conveyor 1 or 7 the bag 3 is located inside the bag receiver 2 at the end opposite to the bag receiver 2 in conveying direction as shown in Fig. 3. By means of the continuously operating linear ~~conveyors1~~ conveyors 1 and 7 a greater number of bags 3 can now be transferred to an additional bag treatment station not shown here or e.g. to a downstream linear conveyor.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 3 and ending on line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

> As can be seen in Fig. 4, the number of bags 3 that can be conveyed per time unit can be increased and the conveying capacity of the linear conveyors 1, 7 can be fully utilized by providing a greater number of bag transfer devices installed next to each other or, as in the shown embodiment, also across from each other. The feed ~~station~~ stations 9 which are equipped with a hopper in conjunction with the bag transfer devices 8 allow on the one hand for continuous delivery of the bags 3 to the linear conveyors 1, 7 at high frequency and on the other hand for easy coupling to the device for taking out the bags 3 and marshalling them into singles.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 16 and ending on page 11, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

In the exit area of the linear conveyors 1 and 7 across from each other the receiving elements 4 divide the bag receiver 2 of each of the linear conveyors 1 and 7 across from each other into two bag receiver halves with a width at least equal to the width of the bags 3, in which one bag at a time is conveyed by one of [[he]] the linear conveyors 1, 7. As a result the bags 3 are transferred not only with the smallest possible interval between each other but also with a minimal interval in conveying direction, and at a perpendicular to the conveying direction to a linear conveyor downstream of the device according to the invention. Due to the short interval between the bags 3 at a perpendicular to the conveying direction the transfer, e.g. to a downstream linear conveyor not shown here is improved considerably. At the same time the reduction of the interval between the bags 3 in conveying direction maximizes the capacity of the device according to the invention while the speed of the linear conveyors 1, 7 remains unchanged.